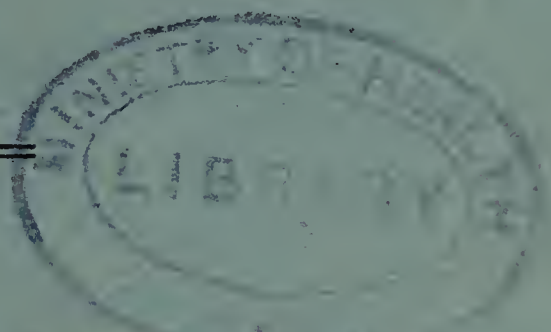


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Windsford Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended 31st Dec., 1954.

NORTHWICH :

W. HOBSON & SON, LTD., PRINTERS.

Members of the Urban District Council of Winsford.

1954.

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor L. JACKSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:
Councillor F. MELLOR, M.M., J.P.

Chairman of the Health Committee:
Councillor T. BRATT, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee:
Councillor G. A. VERNON

Members of the Health Committee:
Councillor R. G. Barton, J.P.

„ T. Bratt, J.P.
„ J. Jackson
„ H. Johnson
„ L. Knight
„ H. Lunt
„ G. Morgan
„ H. Sadler
„ A. Sanders
„ W. Stubbs
„ P. G. Tipple
„ G. A. Vernon
„ J. N. Wilson, C.C.

Winsford Urban District Council.

Health Report for 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Winsford
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the following statement of essential matters affecting the Public Health of the Town during the year 1954:—

SECTION A.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,094 acres
Population — Registrar-General's latest estimate of population (mid-1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,930
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,001
Rateable Value (1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£60,835
Sum represented by a penny rate (1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£237 15 0

The following extracts from vital statistics of the year relate to net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers by the Registrar-General.

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	Legitimate ..	201	105	96	{	Birth Rate per 1000 of the esti-
	Illegitimate ..	4	1	3		mated resident population
						15·85
						After adjustment by the Comparability
						Factor 15·05
Still Births	Legitimate ..	6	4	2	{	Rate per 1000 total (live and
	Illegitimate ..	—	—	—		still) births 28·43
Deaths..	..	157	98	59	{	Death Rate per 1000 of the esti-
						mated resident population .. 12·14
						After adjustment by the Comparability
						Factor 12·98
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—						
	All infants per 1000 live births	..	..	..	..	39·02
	Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	39·80
	Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	17
.. .. Meningococcal Infection	..	..	..	..	..	1
.. .. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—
.. .. Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	—
.. .. Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	—

The following table compares the main statistics for 1954 with the years 1943-1953:—

Year.	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	No. of Deaths from Cancer	No. of Deaths from Tubercu- losis
1943.	10,850	.. 16.95	.. 13.82	.. 21.73	.. 20	.. 5
1944.	10,760	.. 17.47	.. 14.21	.. 79.78	.. 16	.. 9
1945.	10,720	.. 16.13	.. 14.64	.. 17.34	.. 16	.. 6
1946.	11,300	.. 20.00	.. 11.50	.. 22.12	.. 10	.. 6
1947.	11,640	.. 22.85	.. 14.26	.. 33.83	.. 22	.. 6
1948.	12,050	.. 19.33	.. 13.19	.. 21.45	.. 23	.. 5
1949.	12,100	.. 18.92	.. 12.81	.. 34.93	.. 19	.. 3
1950.	12,490	.. 17.22	.. 12.58	.. 27.90	.. 19	.. 3
1951.	12,770	.. 16.91	.. 12.92	.. 18.51	.. 21	.. 2
1952.	12,820	.. 16.38	.. 10.92	.. 19.04	.. 23	.. 6
1953.	12,860	.. 16.56	.. 10.65	.. 14.08	.. 24	.. 3
1954.	12,930	.. 15.85	.. 12.14	.. 39.02	.. 17	.. 3

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1954

(Taken from the Registrar-General's Tables).

	MALES.	FEMALES	TOTAL.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	1	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	1	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	4	—	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms...	5	3	8
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	15	10	25
18. Coronary disease, angina	19	9	28
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	—	1
20. Other heart diseases	14	8	22
21. Other circulatory diseases	3	3	6
22. Influenza	1	—	1
23. Pneumonia	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis	4	2	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ...	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis... ..	2	1	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	2	—	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	11	13	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents... ..	2	1	3
34. All other accidents	—	1	1
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTAL	98	59	157

New Industries.—Mr. Heaton, Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows:—

“After lying unused for some years, the factory in Dierden Street has now been taken over by British Crepe, and reconstruction work and the provision of machinery is proceeding. It is expected that this factory will be working by the middle of 1955 and will employ over 100 persons.”

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(A) Provided by the District Council.

(1) Staff.

W. S. Slater, M.B. Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, Hartford Hill, Darwin Street, Northwich, Cheshire.	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts, the County Council and the North and Mid- Cheshire Hospital Man- agement Committee).
Clerical Staff.	1 person (whole-time).	(Services shared with the other three Mid- Cheshire Districts).
T. H. Rogerson, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Chief Sanitary Inspector Over Hall, Winsford.	(Winsford Urban Dis- trict Council only).
F. Lamb, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.	Additional Sanitary Inspector.	-do-
Miss H. Oakes	Cert. Shorthand- Typist.	-do-

(2) Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services in Manchester, which are provided free of charge to the Winsford Urban District Council, proved adequate during the year. In addition, this Service has co-operated in the transport of the samples twice monthly from this area. Details of the samples and specimens are given later in the report.

(3) Environmental Services.

Details of the other Services, e.g. Sanitary and Housing Inspections, Food Examinations, etc., etc., provided by the Winsford Urban District Council, are recorded later in this report.

(B) Isolation Hospital Services.

Towards the end of 1954, certain wards of the Davenham Isolation Hospital were set aside for the treatment of the area's infectious cases and also a number of chronic sick patients. Out of a total of 214 admissions for 1954, 26 of them came from the Winsford Urban District.

(C) Provided by the County Council.

The Cheshire County Council have officers discharging duties in the Winsford Urban area under the following Services:— School Medical, Maternity and Child Welfare, including Milk Food Sales, Tuberculosis, School Dental, Health Visiting, Weights and Measures Inspection. Specialist Services, e.g. Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Paediatric, Home and Domiciliary Midwifery Services, Speech Therapy, Residential and Temporary Accommodation, under the County Welfare Services.

(D) Provided by the Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council)

The Mid-Cheshire Divisional Health Committee (under the auspices of the County Council) provided the following Services:—

(a) Vaccination and Immunisation Schemes.

The work done during the year 1954 in the Winsford Urban District is detailed as follows:—

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	36
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	6
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	4
						—
Total						46

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	50
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	-
Re-immunised	...	...	...	...	...	109
						—
Total						159

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	-
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	-
						—
Total						nil

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

Pre-School Children	...	...	...	...	...	43
School Children	...	...	...	...	...	14
						—
Total						57

During the latter part of 1954, the prophylactic which combines both diphtheria and whooping cough was put into general use. This prophylactic reduces the number of injections from five to three for each child and should preferably be given to infants of three to four months old.

(b) Sitting Case Car and Ambulance Service.

The service provided in the area continued to deal with the Winsford Urban cases expeditiously and without serious complaint throughout the year.

(c) Prevention of Illness — Care and After Care.

Nursing requisites and after-care equipment were loaned for the use of the sick and needy in a number of homes during the year.

(d) Domestic Help Service.

Domestic Helps have been provided during 1954 in 15 households in the Winsford Urban District. The kind of cases assisted included old age and confinements, etc.

(E) Family Planning.

The Family Planning Clinic, which remains controlled locally by an active team of lady volunteers, working under the general guidance of the Family Planning Association, has been held every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 10-30 a.m. During the year, 176 married women from Winsford and the adjoining districts attended for specialist's advice. These attendances were made for many reasons, including financial, ill health, housing, spacing, etc., etc.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The water supply provided by the Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board during the past year has been satisfactory, both as regards quality and quantity. There were two unsatisfactory bacteriological reports out of a total of 51 samples taken. These two unsatisfactory reports were checked upon by further sampling, which proved to be satisfactory.

Mr. P. Heaton, Engineer and Surveyor, reports as follows:—

“Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—Reconstruction work has now been completed at the Wharton Sewage Disposal works, whereby the spread of the works in the flash area has been arrested and extra accommodation provided. Serious damage from subsidence occurs from time to time to these works and adds to the difficulty in dealing with the sewage flows. It is proposed to construct an entirely new receiving, screening and detritus chamber at a point higher up the bank from the flashes and abandon the existing chambers, which have now become inadequate.

With regard to the Over sewage works, a new sedimentation bed has now been completed and will shortly come into use. This is required to cope with added flows from development on the Over side and also provide for additional flows from the projected small sewage scheme for part of the Swanlow area.

The functioning of the Council's two main sewage works on the Weaver is satisfactory judging from the effect of the effluent on the river water and the quality of such water below the town.

Public Conveniences. — New large public conveniences are proposed near the Town Bridge, after which the existing conveniences in the Market Place will be demolished. There would appear to be an insufficient number of such conveniences throughout the town and further schemes are being prepared."

Mr. T. Rogerson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows:—

"Closet Conversion.—The progress of the work of converting pail and privy closets during the year has again been slow, but as was stated in the last Annual Report, the number of conversions which can be carried out without appreciable extension of sewers, etc., is now becoming small. Unsatisfactory outfalls in the Swanlow and Littler Lane areas deter the conversion of properties.

A considerable number of the outstanding conversions are situated in out-lying areas and at properties which are sub-standard in character. The proposed Housing Survey for the future five-year Slum Clearance Programme may indicate that the conversion problem will be vitally affected by the Council's housing policy over the next few years.

The position at the close of the year can be summarised as follows:—

i.	Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the commencement of the year	214
ii.	Total number of Statutory Notices served during the year	3
iii.	Total number of conversions completed during the year	11
iv.	Total number of conversions for which Statutory Notices have been served during the year, and upon which work was commenced, or is expected to commence, shortly	nil
v.	Total number of pails and privies requiring conversion at the close of the year	203

"Licensed Camping Sites.—There are five camping sites in the district, accommodating approximately 100 movable dwellings. Three of these sites are situated on land near to and overlooking the River Weaver, the remaining two being in the Whitegate part of the district.

One new Licence to station and use an individual moveable dwelling was issued during the year, but an application to use a 'bus body for permanent occupation was refused by the Council. The applicant did not appeal against the decision and the 'bus body was removed from the site.

Canal Boats.—No canal boats are now registered with the Council.

Two inspections have been made in regard to minor repairs, which were remedied forthwith.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.—This service is administered through the Council's Surveyor's Department, which employs one man full-time on this work.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses in the district.

River Pollution.—There is no known pollution of the river in Winsford."

Swimming Baths.—The Council's open-air swimming baths are maintained in good condition and are much used by the public. The plant functions well, the water being circulated and sterilised over a period of every six hours. An analysis of the Bath water taken in times of heavy use by the public has been very satisfactory.

In addition, three out of four samples submitted to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory.

Mr. Heaton, Engineer and Surveyor, reports that damage to the Baths by subsidence arouses some apprehension as to their continued existence. A further scheme for the Baths to be constructed in a more stable part of the town is being considered.

Recreational Fields and Open Spaces.—Mr. Heaton, Engineer and Surveyor, further reports:—

"A regular routine of improvement of open spaces and provision of gardens wherever possible has proceeded for some time throughout the town. A notable addition to this is the new garden constructed by the Council at Over Square on land given by Doctor Robert Okell, J.P. The work was to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The garden is a rest area which is much used by the public and its construction removed the dangerous and obstructive bend in the Square."

Cheshire County Council Act, 1953. — This Act came into force during 1954 in the Winsford Urban District. The Act confers powers on the Cheshire County Council and local authorities in the administrative county in relation to lands and highways, the local government improvement, health and finance, to enact provisions with respect to hairdressers' and barbers' premises, etc.

The Act incorporates numerous sections relating to Public Health, including the following:—

- (1) Sewers, drains and sanitary conveniences.
- (2) Buildings and structures.
- (3) Verminous premises or articles.
- (4) Disposal of refuse.
- (5) Infectious diseases.
- (6) Food.
- (7) Miscellaneous (Registration, etc., of Hairdressers and Barbers; Water Supply, etc., etc.).

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution.—The problems associated with excessive smoke emission were discussed by the Public Health Committee, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector reported that he considered the time was now opportune for an attempt to be made to estimate the extent and nature of this aerial pollution. To achieve this it would be necessary to set up apparatus in three or four suitable localities in the district and record monthly atmospheric deposits, and this should give an indication of the efficiency of any smoke reducing equipment as and when it is installed in local industries.

The observations of the Committee were referred to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for further information on the siting of deposit gauges and other recording apparatus for the measurement of local atmospheric pollution.

In view of the increasing attention now being paid to pollution by oxides of sulphur, the Department strongly advocated the installation of lead peroxide instruments with the deposit gauges to give a monthly average figure for the “activity” of sulphur dioxide in the air.

Information was also sought regarding the possible presence of pollution emanating from an oil refinery and it was thought likely that some of the “fumes” were due to minute traces of organic compounds, for which, at the dilution in which they occur, there is no ready means of taking measurements. If, however, any of the pollution from that source was due to oxides of sulphur, then the observations made with lead peroxide instruments, suitably correlated with wind observations, might serve to show whether these were present in any undue quantity.

The Public Health Committee instructed the Chief Sanitary Inspector to continue his investigations and to invite an officer of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to visit the town to advise on atmospheric pollution and the measures to be taken and instruments required for dealing with it.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.
Statement of Inspections made and Notices Issued.
 (Based upon a Statement made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Nature of Inspections made	Num- ber.	Number of Notices served		Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statu- tory.	Infor- mal.	Notice compli- ed with	Remai- ning in hand.	Prosecutions	
						Institu- ted	Pend- ing
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspection)	293	3	34	26	12	..	..
2. Tents, Vans, Sheds, Camping Sites	27	2	6	7	3	..	..
3. Privy Middens, Earth Closets, Peat Pails, Cesspool Privies..	58	6	6	..	11	..	..
4. Cesspools	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. House Drainage	142	15	16	16	6	..	..
6. Ditches, Watercourses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Offensive Accumulation	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Keeping of Animals	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Offensive Trades .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Slaughterhouses (Public) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
" (Public)	1577	..	31	21	10	..	..
11. Other Places where food is produced or sold :—							
Canteens	14	..	4	..	4	..	..
Cafes	9	..	1	..	1	..	..
Food Shops	116	..	..	..	..	..	..
Butchers' Shops	39	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Dairies	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Factories with Mechanical Power	14	..	3	3	..	..	..
Factories without Mechanical Power	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Premises under the Act (including works of Building)							
Outworkers' Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14. Ashbins	14	..	2	2	..	..	..
15. Overcrowding .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16. Places of Amusement	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
17. Verminous Premises .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18. Water Closets	17	..	1	..	1	..	..
19. Water Supply	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
20. Shops (Shops' Act)	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
21. Miscellaneous	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
22. River Boats	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
23. Infectious Diseases							
Enquiries and Revisits	55	..	1	..	..	..	..
24. Interviews	333	..	..	..	..	..	..
25. Sampling :—							
Milk	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Water .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ice Cream .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26. Smoke Abatement	4	..	4	..	..	..	..
27. Markets	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
28. Disinfection and Disinfestation..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	2782	26	111	76	48	..	..

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**Part I of the Act.**

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	12	9	1	—
Factories with Mechanical Power ..	53	16	2	—
Other Premises	3	—	—	—
Total	68	25	3	—

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness.. ..	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	2	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4	5	—	—	—

SECTION D. HOUSING.

During the year, 47 permanent houses were erected. This brings the total of post-war dwellings erected to 718 permanent and 50 temporary houses.

Total Number of Houses and Sites.

Site.	Houses	Constructed
	Pre-War	Post-War.
Grange Lane and Meadow Bank	56	—
Park Avenue	40	—
Gladstone Street, Woodford Lane and Moss Bank	50	—
Crook Lane	12	—
Seaton Street, Hewitt Drive and Beckett Avenue	36	—
Siddorn Street, Overway, Coronation Avenue, etc.	50	—
Kingsway, Hill Street, Massey Avenue and Prefabricated Bungalows	42	52
Dene Site	—	526
Greville Drive and Lodge Drive	—	20
Greville Estate	—	169
Special Bungalow for Paraplegic Ex-Service Man	—	1

Twenty permanent houses and bungalows have been built privately during the year under review, and a total of ninety-five since the end of the war.

The table below outlines the main housing activities of the Council in administering the Housing and Public Health Acts:—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	171
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	510
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	36
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	90
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	18
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	153

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	39
---	-----	-----	----

3.—Action Under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—					
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	1
(b) by local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	71
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—				
(a) by owners	...	...	...	10
(b) by local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	4

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	1

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	nil

The number of houses closed during the year under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, was	...	...	...	...	nil
Dwellings closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—There are now six local milk distributors classified as follows:—

Retail trade from local dairies	...	...	...	...	3
Retail trade of bottled pasteurised milk from motor vehicles	...	...	...	...	2
Retail trade of bottled pasteurised milk from shop premises	...	...	...	...	1

The licences held by these distributors under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 and 1950, are as follows:—

Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	...	...	...	...	2
Licence to use the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	4
Licence to use the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	...	...	...	...	4

Two supplementary licences have been issued to distributors situated outside the district, who are retailing milk in the district.

Eight samples of Pasteurised milk taken from various schools in the district, as follows, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, were reported upon satisfactorily:—

St. John's C.E. School	Darnhall School
Verdin Grammar School	Gladstone Street School
Dierden Street School	Meadow Bank School
Wharton School	High Street Infants' School

(b) **Ice Cream.**—Five new applications for the sale of ice cream (wrapped products) were received during the year.

There are now 54 premises registered for the manufacture or sale of ice cream.

(c) **Food Premises.**—Continuous efforts were made to improve the standard of food hygiene in catering establishments and other food premises, and impromptu talks, aided by illustrated posters and other descriptive literature, were given to kitchen staffs. Careless handling in food preparation and ignorance of the simple facts of food hygiene are often the cause of food poisoning, and

these dangers can be minimised if the essential points are made clear to the individual food handler at his or her place of work. Clean personal habits are particularly important and the various “do’s” and don’t’s” associated with food hygiene were impressed upon these workers. An efficient method of washing-up is one of the more commonplace duties which is often neglected, so the supervisors and proprietors of canteen and cafe kitchens were advised on the use of suitable chemical agents for the cleansing and sterilization of crockery and other utensils.

Owners of these food premises were notified regarding improvements which could be made in connection with the handling and preparation of food.

There are 166 various food premises in the town which can be classified as follows:—

- 58 General Groceries and Stores, including 3 Outdoor Beer Licences and 22 retailing wrapped ice cream.
- 13 Premises with Bakehouses and Shops selling bread, confectionery and groceries, including 2 Cafes and 6 retailing wrapped ice cream.
- 14 Licensed premises, including 4 holding Catering Licences.
- 19 Premises selling sweets and confectionery, including 9 retailing wrapped ice cream.
- 10 Fish and chip shops, including 1 retailing wrapped ice cream.
- 14 Greengrocers, including 3 selling wet fish and 3 retailing wrapped ice cream.
- 15 Butchers’ shops.
- 10 Industrial canteens.
- 8 School canteens.
- 5 Cafes.

(c) **Meat.** — Mr. Rogerson, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports under this heading as follows:—

“The transition from Ministerial control of meat supplies to private enterprise was effected smoothly when private slaughtering was re-introduced on 3rd July, 1954, after fifteen years of meat rationing. Six local butchers commenced slaughtering the whole or part of their requirements, including two concerns who also supply butchers outside the district.

During the first six months of the year, when the local Ministry of Food centralised abattoir was catering for three districts, a total of 9,424 animals were slaughtered for food. After de-control, the six private slaughterhouses in the town slaughtered 4,955 animals between the months of July and December.”

“Slaughtering.—During the year, a comprehensive report was submitted setting out the main points of the new Slaughter-houses Act, 1954, together with detailed reports and location plans on individual slaughter-houses in the Winsford Urban area, in relation to their suitability for slaughtering purposes.

The local slaughtering facilities at the six private slaughter-houses which have operated since de-control are distributed between private traders as summarised below:—

<i>Location of Slaughterhouses</i>	<i>Distribution of slaughtering facilities to other traders</i>
(1) J. Fitton & Sons 390a Station Road	(I) Messrs. Fitton, Winsford, Northwich and Middlewich. (3 shops). (all classes) (II) Ellis, 2, Ledward St. (all classes). (III) R. Pickstock, 104, Delamere Street (Beef only). (IV) S. Latham, 94, High St. (Beef only). (V) T. Sambrooke, High St. (all classes). (VI) 4 butchers with shops situated outside the district also obtain meat supplies from this slaughterhouse.
(2) P. Gandy 415, High Street	(I) Self Supply—(cattle and sheep only). (II) C. Gandy, Crewe—(cattle and sheep only).
(3) Winsford Ind. Co-op. Soc. Weaver Street	(I) Self supply—(all classes for 5 shops and 2 travelling shops). (II) Wheeldon, Altrincham. (all classes). (III) Hopton, 4 shops at Eccles and wholesale at Manchester Meat Market. (all classes).
(4) Mrs. M. Moors 101, Delamere Street	(I) Self supply. (all classes). (II) J. Hickson, High Street. (all classes). (III) A. Moors, 78, Wharton Road. (all classes).
(5) R. Pickstock 104, Delamere Street	(I) Self supply. (sheep only). (II) S. Latham, 94, High Street. (sheep only).
(6) Mrs. Hickson Station Road	(I) Self supply. (all classes).

Two local butchers obtain their meat supplies from outside the District.

The C.W.S. Bacon Factory are also supplying dressed carcase pork to traders, as required.

It was indicated in the Report that suitable and adequate facilities for regular slaughtering are mainly centred at the two larger establishments, viz., the Winsford Industrial Co-operative Society Abattoir, Weaver Street, and Messrs. Fitton, Station Road. At both these premises a regular full-time staff of slaughtermen are employed. Alternative hanging room is available to obviate

the contamination of dressed carcasses during killing. Lairage and grazing accommodation is extensive and a constant supply of hot water and steam is always available to facilitate proper cleansing of walls, floors and equipment.

The normal weekly output of these two slaughter-houses is as follows:—

Messrs. Fitton, Station Road	10 units per day
Winsford Industrial Co-op. Society, Weaver Street	12 units per day

This figure compares favourably with the approximate weekly requirements of home killed meat for local traders, which is 74 units. This latter figure will, of course, fluctuate according to seasonal demand for various classes of meat. These requirements can be summarised as follows:—

	Beef	Mutton	Pork	Veal
J. Fitton & Sons				
390, Station Road	3	20	3	—
S. Hickson				
332, Station Road	3	8	1	—
A. Moors				
Wharton Road	1	5	1	—
T. Ellis				
2, Ledward Street	1	3	1	—
S. Tickle				
7, High Street	4	6	3	—
Winsford Ind. Co-op. Soc. Ltd.				
21, High Street	8	50	10	—
T. Sambrooke				
High Street	2	6	3	—
S. Latham				
94, High Street	1	6	2	—
J. Buckley				
107, High Street	1	7	2	—
J. Hickson				
High Street	1	7	2	—
P. Gandy				
415, High Street	1	9	—	—
Mrs. M. Moors				
101, Delamere Street	2	12	5	—
R. Pickstock				
104, Delamere Street	1	3	1	—
Total Requirements ..	29	142	34	—

or 74 units.

(1 unit = 1 beast, 5 sheep, 2 pigs or 3 calves).

The problems associated with Meat Inspection were also given prominence in the Report.

Since de-control, the basis of meat inspection at private slaughterhouses has been in accordance with Memo 3/Meat, a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Food on 1st February, 1953, regarding methods and criteria of meat inspection recommended for adoption by local authorities and their officers. These recommendations include ante-mortem inspection of all live animals before slaughter, with the segregation of diseased animals and post-mortem inspection during the process of slaughtering. Under existing circumstances, where numerous private slaughterhouses are operating at all hours, it is obviously impossible to carry out meat inspection and control in accordance with these recommendations.

Pharmaceutical products are being salvaged from the C.W.S. Bacon Factory and the Winsford Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. Abattoir for collection on behalf of manufacturing chemists, but it is neither practicable nor economical to extend this service to other private slaughterhouses, which are operating in only a minor capacity.

The Council was satisfied that the slaughterhouse facilities available in the district were adequate for the time being, having regard to the reasonable requirements of persons making use of such facilities, and that no additions were required in the district, and that after 1st January, 1955, no slaughterhouse licence would be granted or renewed in respect of any premises in the district which were not licensed on that date. It was decided that the Winsford Master Butchers' Association be requested to appoint representatives to meet at an early date a sub-committee of the Council for the purpose of discussing the question of existing slaughterhouse facilities in the area. This committee met on 3rd November, 1954, and discussed all aspects of the problem. A joint meeting of the Mid-Cheshire Local Authorities was held on 8th November, 1954, and it was decided that a letter be sent to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries indicating that in the opinion of the Authorities concerned, there should be immediate moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities in the area of the four Authorities, and if deemed necessary, the erection of a public abattoir and requesting the Ministry's guidance on this point."

C.W.S. Bacon Factory, Bostock Road.—I am indebted to the Manager of the C.W.S. Bacon Factory for the following information on his factory's activities during 1954:—

"During the year under review, the total killings of pigs numbered 132,586, and disclosed an increase of about 5% of those recorded for the previous year.

Since de-control, which took place in July, the demand for pork carcasses increased considerably, and as they are distributed over a very wide area, they all undergo a very careful examination by the Meat Inspectors.

There has been a satisfactory expansion in all the auxiliary activities, particularly in the processing of gammons for sale as cooked hams. The output in this particular section averaged over 2,000 gammons weekly."

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries requested that a proportion of pigs heads be examined by the Council's Meat Inspectors for the presence of atrophic rhinitis, an obscure disease associated with pigs and uncommon in this country. An outbreak had already been reported in the County, but no evidence of the disease had been detected during routine meat inspection.

1,304 pigs heads were examined for this disease during the four months ended 31st December, 1954, and a monthly analysis of these inspections is as follows:—

September	..	...	...	323
October	...	...	...	356
November	...	...	...	333
December	...	...	...	293

During the year, six consignments comprising 530 bags of imported Australian boneless brisket beef, at a total weight of 19 tons 16 cwts. 1 qtr. 20 lbs., were also inspected for the detection of Onchocerciasis, a parasitic disease endemic in that country.

Diseases of Animals Acts.—Three calves were found affected with congenital tuberculosis and details were forwarded to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who traced the dams for slaughter under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

During the year, 43 pigs and 1 cow were notified as suspected cases of Anthrax under the provisions of the Anthrax Order, 1938. None of these proved positive.

A considerable number of Swine Fever contacts were sent to the C.W.S. Bacon Factory for slaughter under the provisions of the Swine Fever Order, 1938.

Cysticercus Bovis.—The routine examination of all bovine heads for the detection of *Cysticercus bovis* infection has continued at all slaughterhouses throughout the year. Only six cases were found, two of these were condemned and the remaining four were placed in cold storage for the prescribed period of treatment."

The following, based upon a statement by the Meat Inspector, Mr. Rogerson, is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:—

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed	1,179	1,389	1,893	5,740	135,669
Number inspected	1,179	1,389	1,893	5,740	135,669
<i>All Diseases except Tuberculosis—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	6	4	53	7	248
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	86	341	54	361	6,296
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis... ..	12.60%	26.94%	9.51%	5.30%	4.92%
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	19	4	—	128
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	98	356	—	—	6,170
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with Tuberculosis	13.59%	29.59%	0.17%	—	4.83%

Other Foods.—Under the “Unsound Food Provision”, the undermentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption and condemned:—

Article of Food.	Weight.		Cause of Condemnation.
	lb.	ozs.	
51 tins of assorted meat	18	12	... Damaged and Decomposed
139 „ „ vegetables	157	7	... „ „ „
50 „ „ Milk	43	0	... Fermentation & Moulds
139 „ „ Fruit	189	1	... Hydrogen Swells
4 „ „ Salmon	9	6	... Damaged and Decomposed
Minced Beef Steak	50	0	... Decomposition
Boneless Brisket Beef	1	8	... Onchocerciasis
35 Cooked Gammons	461	0	... Decomposition
Total	930	2	

The amount of meat and offal condemned was:—

January—June :

Beef	25,124 lbs.	Mutton	834 lbs.
Veal	1,408 lbs	Pork	4,265 lbs.

July—December :

Beef	17,490 lbs.	Mutton	39 lbs.
Veal	1,119 lbs.	Pork	113 lbs.

The total weight of meat, offal and other foods condemned was:— 23 tons, 2 cwts., 0 qtrs., 14 lbs., 2 ozs.

In addition, the following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Winsford Urban District during the year 1954:—

Nature of Sample	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Butter	1	—
Cheese	1	—
Cooking Fat	1	—
Gin	1	—
Iodine, Tincture of	1	1
Lemon Cheese	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Meat Paste	2	—
Milk	18	—
Milk...Condensed F.C. Unsweetened	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Sausage (Pork)	1	—
Tomato Ketchup	1	—
Treacle	1	—
Vinegar—Malt	1	—
Whiskey	1	—
Total ...	34	1

Particulars of non-standard samples.

Sample	Result of Analysis	Remarks
Tincture of Iodine.	18% deficient in Iodine.	Sample purchased at a grocer's shop. Manufacturer of sample traced but found to have gone out of business.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

- (1) The incidence of Infectious Diseases was low, with the exception of measles, as may be gathered from the following table:—

Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1954.

DISEASES.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	19	17	—
Measles	123	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—

(2) TUBERCULOSIS.

The table below details the ages of both new cases and deaths from both forms of Tuberculosis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15 „ ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 „ ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 „ ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	1	—	—	2	1	—	—

During 1954, 12 cases were admitted to and 7 discharged from Sanatoria.

Number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:—

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
97	103	93	96	90	92	93	92	72	74	59	56

B.C.G. Protection against Tuberculosis.—4 B.C.G. vaccinations were reported to have been given at the St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, to new-born babies of Winsford during 1954.

In addition, 5 B.C.G. vaccinations were reported to have been given at the Northwich Chest Clinic to contacts to cases of tuberculosis.

Also, the vaccination with B.C.G. of school children in the 12/13 years age group was introduced in the autumn of 1954, when arrangements were made for the school children of this age group to receive this protective treatment early in 1955.

(3) **DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.**

The disinfection of 28 premises was carried out during the year, as follows:—

For Infectious Diseases 28 houses

The disinfestation of 2 premises was carried out in connection with vermin.

I would like to say, in closing this report, how much I appreciate the help I have received from the Members of the Council and Officials in dealing with the various matters which have arisen during the year.

W. S. SLATER, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1955.

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